

Message Text

SECRET

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73

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 ERDA-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 OMB-01

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R 031213Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 871

INFO AMEMBASSYKHARTOUM

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR MANAMA

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T TEHRAN 2989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, SU

SUBJ: TRANSFER OF IRANIAN PATROL BOATS TO SUDAN

REF: A. KHARTOUM 793 B. TEHRAN 2853 C. TEHRAN 2642 D. STATE
217109 OF 10/3/74 (NOTAL) E. TEHRAN 7931 OF 9/19/74 (NOTAL) F.
TEHRAN 3444 OF 5/1/1974 (NOTAL)

FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE SUGGESTED BY REF (A):

A. AS POINTED OUT REF (C), IRANIAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP WAS WELL
AWARE OF US REGULATIONS REGARDING PRIOR USG AUTHORIZATION FOR
TRANSFER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SUDAN. FAILURE TO ADHERE TO
THOSE REGULATIONS WAS RESULT OF INCORRECT ASSUMPTIONS IN BOTH
SUPREME COMMANDER'S STAFF AND IRANIAN NAVY THAT USG APPROVAL WAS
BEING HANDLED BY OFFICERS OF OTHER STAFF. WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE
SHOULD LEVY DRASTIC PENALTY OF RECALLING BOATS BECAUSE OF THIS
BUREAUCRATIC LAPSE.

B. WE WOULD HOPE GOS COULD BE PERSUADED TO PROVIDE ASSURANCES
REQUIRED BY LAW THAT SUDAN WILL NOT TRANSFER BOATS TO A THIRD
PARTY WITHOUT PRIOR USG APPROVAL. WITHOUT SUCH ASSURANCE IT WOULD

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SEEM ONLY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO RECALL BOATS TO IRAN.

C. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO GIVE IRAN CLEAR STATEMENT OF OUR POLICY ON ARMS TRANSFERS TOWARD SUDAN BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT DONE SO IN THE PAST AND BECAUSE WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT IRAN CONTEMPLATES OTHER TRANSFERS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, REF (D) INSTRUCTED US TO GIVE GOI ONLY INFORMATION ON SUDANESE INELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE MAP EQUIPMENT. CABLE PROVIDED NO GUIDANCE FOR HANDLING TRANSFER OF FMS EQUIPMENT. FURTHER, GOI PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER ROCKET LAUNCHERS, WHICH WAS SUBJECT OF REFS (D) AND (E), CAME SOME MONTHS SUBSEQUENT TO TOUFANIAN'S STATEMENT THAT IRAN COULD NOT MEET SUDANESE REQUIREMENTS AS OUTLINED BY KHALAFALLA DURING APRIL VISIT (REF F). IT MAY BE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN, OR WILL BE, OTHER IRANIAN/SUDANESE TALKS RE TRANSFERS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND WE WOULD LIKE GOI TO HAVE PRECISE UNDERSTANDING OF OUR GUIDELINES.

HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, MILITARY SALES, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN02989
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750116-0240
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750483/aaaacyeq.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KHARTOUM 793, 75 TEHRAN 2853, 75 TEHRAN 2642
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSFER OF IRANIAN PATROL BOATS TO SUDAN
TAGS: MASS, IR, SU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006